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NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

By F. G. TINGLEY

May, as a rule, is a pleasant month on the North Pacific Ocean, the disturbing temperature differences between the ocean and neighboring land areas which characterize the cold season having practically disappeared. Reports at hand indicate that May, 1926, was no exception to the general rule, a considerable number of vessels having made the trans-Pacific voyage under very favorable weather conditions. However a few disturbances may be noted which occasioned at intervals fresh to strong gales.

At the beginning of the month there was a rather energetic depression in the vicinity of 45° N., 160° E., in which several reporting vessels were involved, including the British S. S. *Philoctetes* in addition to those mentioned in the table of gales. Following this, on the 3d, vessels in the eastern part of the northern steamer lane experienced southwesterly gales, incident to the deepening of a depression over the Gulf of Alaska.

From the 8th to the 12th southerly gales were general in both the eastern and western sections of the steamer lane, this activity being associated with an incursion of high pressure over Bering Sea and a consequent deepening of two adjacent depressions, one southeast, the other southwest of the high pressure area. Details of the resulting weather will be found in the table of gales.

Following the abatement of these storms conditions were generally quiet until near the close of the month, when a second incursion of high pressure over Bering Sea occasioned fresh northwesterly gales which reached southward over the Gulf of Alaska to the steamer lane where several vessels were involved on the 28th to 30th.

May was the seventh consecutive month with pressure averaging below normal in the region of the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. The average monthly deficiency of pressure at Dutch Harbor for the period from November, 1925, to May, 1926, inclusive, was 0.30 inch; at Kodiak, 0.24 inch, and at Juneau, 0.13 inch. Only in two months during this period did pressure rise to normal or above at any of these stations, in December reaching normal at Dutch Harbor and in March an average of +0.05 inch at Juneau.

It is interesting to consider this pressure anomaly in connection with general weather conditions in adjacent regions. At Honolulu an unprecedented drouth remained unbroken, with a continuation of unusual easterly winds. Temperature there was again above normal—after a subnormal temperature in April which had broken, temporarily, a period of eight months of excessive temperature. On the American mainland temperatures over

the northwestern United States and western Canada were almost continuously above normal, at times by large amounts.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level at indicated hours, North Pacific Ocean, May, 1926

Station	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Dutch Harbor ¹	29.76	-0.16	30.36	11th	29.00	2d.
St. Paul ¹	29.93	+0.07	30.62	11th	29.32	Do.
Kodiak ¹	29.65	-0.22	30.44	10th	28.88	Do.
Midway Island ¹	30.05	-0.04	30.22	3d	29.86	9th.
Honolulu ²	30.08	+0.02	30.20	5th	29.91	Do.
Juneau ²	29.79	-0.20	30.46	10th	29.16	4th.
Tatoosh Island ²	30.01	-0.03	30.36	30th	29.50	6th.
San Francisco ²	30.02	+0.03	30.22	10th	29.90	Do.
San Diego ²	29.96	+0.03	30.08	15th	29.85	12th.

¹ P. m. observations only.

² A. m. and p. m. observations.

³ Corrected to 24-hour mean.

⁴ Twenty-eight days.

Fog appears not to have been more prevalent than usual for May. Between the 3d and 12th it was noted very generally throughout the northern steamer lane. From the 16th to the 20th it was restricted for the most part to American coastal waters and the region southeast of the Kuril Islands and the same was true of the period from the 28th to the end of the month. At other times the ocean was practically free of fog, although an exception should be noted on the 10th and 11th, when it was observed by several vessels leaving and arriving at Balboa.

The following report of waterspouts has been received from the S. S. *John D. Archbold*, Capt. Geo. E. Bridgett; observer, Mr. H. Thorsen: "On May 25, in latitude 14° 07' N., longitude 95° 17' W., at 14 h. 14 m. G. C. T., observed large waterspout making up approximately 6 miles NNE. of vessel, moving at a rapid speed in a NE.-SW. direction. Ship's course 295°, true. Fifteen minutes later a second large spout made up a little in advance of the first one. At 14 h. 44 m. the first, and larger, spout overtook the second and both disappeared. A few minutes later the vessel ran through a moderate wind and rain squall."

BAY OF BENGAL CYCLONE

Press dispatches from Rangoon, Burma, say that a violent tropical storm from the Bay of Bengal struck the Arakan coast on Wednesday evening, May 26, 1926. Government buildings were reported destroyed at Akyab. A tidal wave ascended the Naaf River and "swept away villages to beyond Maung-daw, 50 miles inland." The loss to life was considered to be at least 2,800.—W. E. H.